

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	Agency Functions and Organization	
	1. Agency History.....	1
	2. NDIAC Organizational Chart.....	2
	3. Statutory Responsibilities.....	3
	4. NDIAC Major Programs and Activities.....	3
	5. Summary of Legislation Passed	4
	6. Summary of Responsibilities Added or Deleted	5
B.	Evaluation	
	1. Summary of Accomplishments and Activities.....	5
	2. Identification of Trends in Direction.....	11
	3. Short and Long-Term Plans and Goals	11
	4. Statistical Information Related to NDIAC Responsibilities	12
C.	Summary of Revenue and Expenditures	13
D.	List of Reports and Publications	14

A. AGENCY FUNCTIONS AND ORGANIZATION

1. AGENCY HISTORY

To facilitate working relationships between the State and Tribal governments, in 1949 the State Legislature established the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission (NDIAC) (*S.L. 1949, Ch. 324*). The NDIAC was one of the first such commissions established in the United States. Although the official function of the NDIAC has been modified over the years to reflect changes in federal and state policy, the main goal of the Commission has always been to create a better North Dakota through the improvement of tribal/state relations and better understanding between American Indian and non-Indian people.

The NDIAC has matured with the policies that have shaped the current relationship between American Indian tribes, states across the nation and the federal government. The Commission has encompassed the rhetoric of termination, assimilation, and relocation to self-determination for Indian tribes. To illustrate, it wasn't until 1959 and the roots of self-determination that the tribes within North Dakota acquired representation on the NDIAC. At that time, *H.B. 554 (S.L. 1959, Ch. 370)* designated the tribal chairmen of each reservation as ex-officio members of the Commission.

In 1963-65 the State Legislature established the *Indian Scholarship* program administered by the Department of Public Instruction. In 1973-75 the Legislature transferred the administration to NDIAC. The initial appropriation for the program was \$45,000. Since 1995 the appropriation has remained at \$204,000 per biennium with approximately 300 Indian students receiving awards during the two-year period. There is an average of 160 Indians students per year on a waiting list for a ND Indian Education Scholarship. Awards are based on financial need and merit. In 1991, the Scholarship program was transferred to the ND University System. The Executive Director of NDIAC is a member of the Board of Directors for the scholarship program.

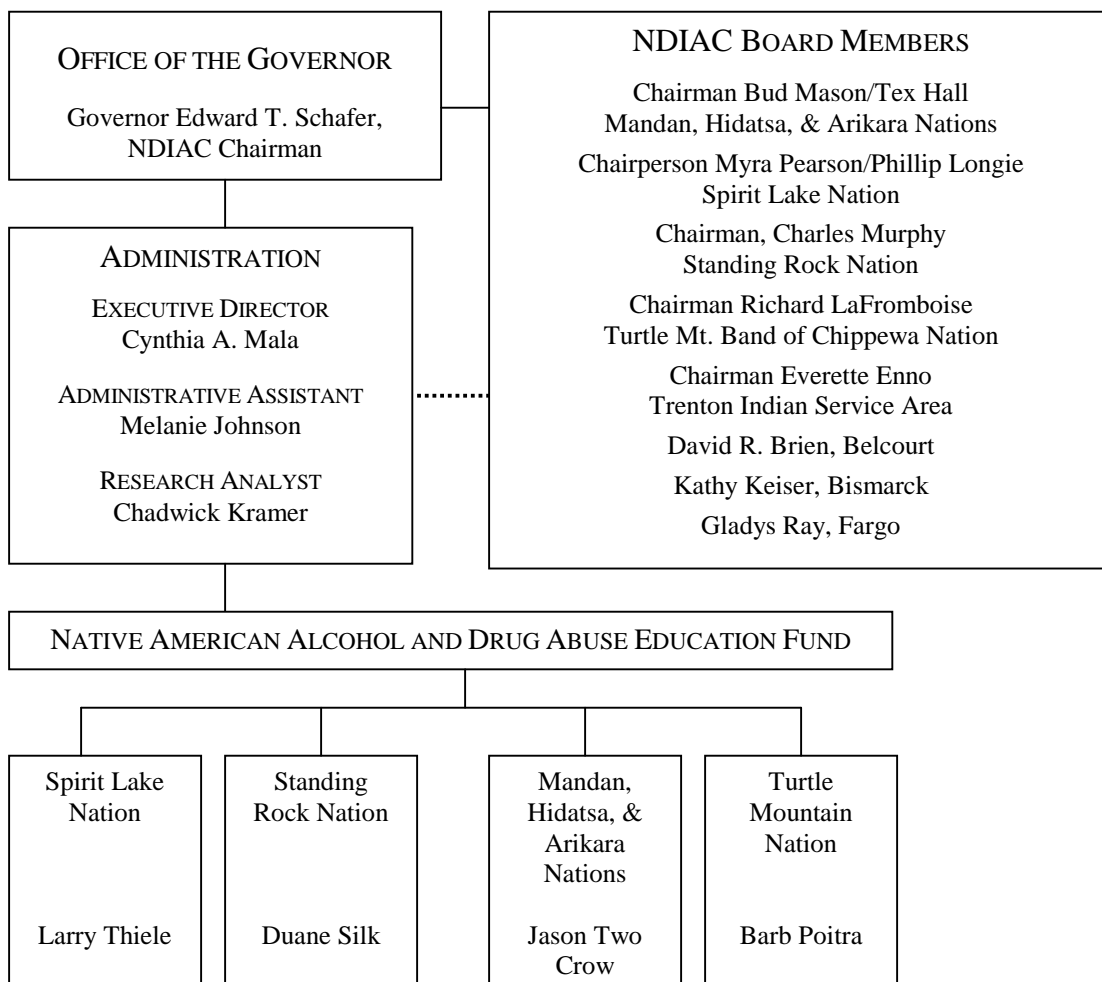
The Legislature established the *Indian Business Development Fund* in 1971-73 with an initial appropriation of \$10,000. Administration of the Development fund was transferred to NDIAC in the 1973-75 biennium. The Development Fund reached a peak of \$50,000 during the 1981-83 Legislature but was decreased to \$25,000 the following biennium. Appropriation for the Business Development Fund failed to be renewed during the 1987 legislature. The State's Economic Development and Finance agency does provide some services to the Tribes.

In 1981, House Representatives G. Pomeroy, Reiten, Riehl and Senators Barth and Tennesos sponsored *S.L. 1981, Ch. 45*, which was passed and established the *Native American Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education Fund*. The purpose of the legislation was to provide prevention education programming to reservation youth. This bill appropriated \$383,836 for the 1981-1983 biennium. Legislation decreased funding for this program in the 1995-1997 biennium to \$150,000 and required a dollar for dollar match from the Tribes. The 1997 Legislature increased the funding to \$200,000, however that funding was appropriated from the Children's Services Coordinating Committee budget. In 1999, the Legislature transferred the program to the ND Department of Human Services.

The NDIAC, in the early 1990's, played a key role in the establishment of the Children's Services Coordinating Committee (CSCC) by assuring adequate Tribal input and involvement. The Executive Director of the Commission sits on the State CSCC board and works with the Tribal CSCC (TCSCC) in determining needs and seeking resources. As similar to the Regional CSCCs, the TCSCCs follow their respective five-year Comprehensive Plans that were completed in 1996 and that are updated periodically.

In 1999, the NDIAC celebrated its fiftieth year of operation. Over the past fifty years, the Commission has seen federal, state and local policies shift and change and has adapted with those shifts. The Commission has tackled issues such as jurisdiction, assimilation, employment, economic development, education, welfare, discrimination, research, self-determination for tribes and, most recently, gaming. As a State agency, the NDIAC has evolved as a vital link between the state and the tribal nations. The Commission continues to address difficult issues and to serve as a facilitator for building a better North Dakota through cooperation, understanding and mutual respect.

2. NDIAC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



3. SUMMARY OF STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Indian Affairs Commission (*Per North Dakota Century Code 54-36*) shall have the power to assist and mobilize the support of State and Federal agencies in assisting Indian individuals and groups in North Dakota, especially the five Tribal Councils (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, Standing Rock Nation, Spirit Lake Nation, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Trenton Indian Service Area), as they seek to develop their own goals, project plans for achieving those goals, and implementing those plans. The Commission's duties are:

1. To investigate any phase of Indian affairs, and to assemble and make available the facts needed by Tribal, State and Federal agencies to work effectively together;
2. To assist Tribal, State and Federal agencies in developing programs whereby Indian citizens may achieve more adequate standards of living;
3. To assist Tribal groups in developing increasingly effective institutions of self-government;
4. To work for greater understanding and improved relationships between Indian and non-Indians;
5. To seek increased participation by Indian citizens in local and state affairs;
6. To confer with and coordinate officials and agencies of other governmental units and Congressional committees with regard to Indian needs and goals;
7. To encourage and propose agreements and accords between Federal, State and local agencies and the several Tribal governments; and pursuant to chapter 54-40.2, to assist in monitoring and negotiating agreements and accords when asked by an affected Tribe.

The Commission is the liaison between the Executive Branch and the Tribes in North Dakota. Duties include mediation service with the Tribes and State and working with other state agencies regarding proper protocol in working with Indian people and Tribal governments.

The nine Commission members serve open-ended terms. The Governor is the Chairperson. The Chairpersons of the four North Dakota Tribes are members along with four Governor appointees, three of whom must be of Indian descent, enrolled members of a tribe, and voting residents of ND.

4. NDIAC Major PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Executive Director is appointed by the Governor and serves as the State's liaison to the Tribal governments on behalf of the Commission, the Governor and the State Legislator. In the capacity of a liaison, the Director assists the various State agencies and/or committees and boards in working with Tribal governments and Indian programs. NDIAC functions as a facilitator by bringing people together, and as an educator by providing information about the needs of Indian citizens. The overall goal is to improve the quality of life for North Dakota's Indian population through promoting better understanding of the cultures.

Assembling and disseminating facts about Indians is a key responsibility of the Commission. Providing the information to various audiences through public speaking is one role of the Director. At the same time, the Commission seeks to educate Indian citizens about State government and to inform them of the types of services and programs that are being provided in Indian country. Various fact sheets, brochures and documents about North Dakota's Indian population are developed by the NDIAC.

The only program administered by the NDIAC during the biennium was the *Native American Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education Program* that is funded by the CSCC. This program provides substance abuse education funds for the four *reservations* with distribution on a prorated share based upon the Indian population living on the reservation as compared with the total Indian population living on all four reservations as determined by the most recent census data. The focus is on youth education and prevention.

5. SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED

The Commission tracked bills and provided weekly updates to the Tribal governments and appropriate programs. A copy of the weekly update was provided to the Governor's office. In June 1999 the NDIAC published the *Voting Record of the 1999 North Dakota Legislative Assembly on Indian Issues*. This document summarizes the session and highlights key pieces of the legislation that might impact Indian citizens. The legislation includes:

- HB 1003 – to provide appropriation for North Dakota University System...includes the Indian Scholarship fund;
- HB 1005 – to provide an appropriation for the expenses of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission;
- HB 1014 – to provide an appropriation for the Children Services Coordinating Committee...includes the Tribal CSCCs and the Native American Alcohol and Drug Education Prevention program funding;
- HB 1043 – to provide a penalty for unfair or discriminatory housing practices;
- HB 1077 – to recognize and enforce 'foreign' domestic violence protection orders;
- HF 1443 – relates to work force training, amended to include Tribal representation on the Advisory Committee;
- HCR3002 – will study long term care issues in Indian country;
- SB 2096 – relates to cost reimbursement for new jobs training;
- SB 2114 – relates to requirements for TANF;
- SB 2171 – Adoption and Safe Families Act;
- SB 2182 – Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (Bill failed but funds amended into Human Services appropriation);
- SB 2188 – financing outlet for Devils Lake;
- SB 2294 – sponsored by the Commission and relates to the law regarding agreements between State and Tribes (intent is to simplify the process and clarify definitions);
- SCR 4024 – designates Sakakawea to be honored and memorialized with a statue in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, DC; and
- SCR 4036 – to study the operation of TANF as it relates to Indian tribes and the State.

6. SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES ADDED OR DELETED

In 1999 the State Legislature transferred the administration of the Native American Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education Fund from the NDIAC to the Department of Human Services. Established in 1981 the program funds education and prevention projects on the four reservations. The \$200,000 funding is appropriated through CSCC funds and requires a Tribal match. The Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse will assume administration of the program.

B. EVALUATION

1. SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Governor appointed a new Executive Director for NDIAC in January 1998. Cynthia A. Mala, member of the Spirit Lake Nation, brings national political experience to the role and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration. She is an adjunct, Assistant Professor of Community Medicine at UND School of Medicine. In June 1999, Ms. Mala was received the "Women in Government" award by *Good Housekeeping* magazine. The award recognizes women who use government to improve people's lives.

NDIAC meetings were held in Bismarck on December 11, 1997, May 14, 1998, August 12, 1998, and on December 14, 1998. The meetings are recorded with summary minutes typed and archived as dictated by State guidelines.

The Executive Director of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission sits on many boards and committees in the capacity as the State's Indian liaison. Through this role, relationships are established and sharing of information is conducted. In addition, the Director is able to promote better understanding of the inadequacies in resources available for Indian citizens. The Director is a member of the following:

1. Children's Services Coordinating Committee
2. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Committee
3. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Review Team
4. Healthy Start, Inc. Board of Directors
5. Indian Scholarships Board of Directors
6. Interagency Substance Abuse Committee
7. Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Planning Committee
8. National Indian Women's Health Resource Committee
9. Native American Children & Family Services Training Institute Advisory Committee
10. ND Supreme Court Committee on Public Trust & Confidence
11. School-to-Work Management Team
12. State Historic Preservation Review Board
13. State Historic Society Indian Advisory Committee
14. STOP Advisory Committee
15. Suicide Prevention Task Force
16. Unified State Plan Work Group (Workforce Investment Act)

A key role of the Commission is promoting better understanding of the Indian culture and complexities of services and programming for reservations and also urban Indians. Presentations and staff in-service training was provided for/to various groups, organizations, and agencies:

- Law Enforcement Training Center
- Mental Health Association of North Dakota
- State House conference on Aging
- Youth Correctional Center
- Missouri River Correction Center
- Department of Corrections
- Casey Family Foundation
- Bureau of Reclamation
- North Dakota Job Service
- Work Force Development Council
- Ruth Meyers House
- Manchester House
- Civic, social, church and political organizations

At the same time there is a need to educate Indian people about the role of State government and to provide factual information about services and programs that do extend into Indian country. Presentations were made to high schools, youth groups, Tribal Councils, and various tribal programs about the Commission and State/Tribal relations. Calls are also taken from Indian citizens needing assistance upon moving or relocating to the Bismarck-Mandan area. NDIAC provides referral assistance to the various social programs available, i.e. Ruth Meyers House or Salvation Army.

Based on the current Director's tenure, the NDIAC averages about two calls per week regarding discrimination issues. Typically these calls are from Indian citizens who feel that they have been discriminated against at work, for housing, or as a patron of a local business. Calls are documented and advice given as to what the individual can do. Most all calls are referred to the Labor Department but they only handled employment issues. Some calls were referred to the North Dakota Civil Rights Advisory Committee. The Commission has also received a couple of calls from non-Indians wanting to know how they can collect on unpaid bills from Indian customers. They are referred to Tribal courts and/or Tribal Councils depending on the situation.

A new and vital part of promoting better understanding of the Indian culture is the Governor's Capital for a Day program. The NDIAC Director attends and participates in these sessions as time and scheduling permits. Capitol for Day provides a forum to exchange information and ideas regarding State and Tribal governments. During calendar year 1998 the Director went to the communities of Elgin/New Leipzig, Wishek, Jamestown, and Maddock.

The number of Indian inmates and specifically youth inmates is high and has remained steady for several years – both Indian adult and juvenile inmate population has averaged 22% of the total inmate population during the past five years. There is great need for improved awareness by both communities (Indian and non-Indian) as to the increase in criminal activity and collaborative strategies to address it. Several meetings have been held with the Indian inmates as well as a couple of sessions with prison staff. The Director supported and participated in a spiritual retreat for Indian inmates in April 1999. The State Department of Corrections, Parole and Probation Division, had an "Indian liaison" position for several years but abandoned it during 1999. The Director is encouraging the Department to reconsider and to reinstate the position and to also have continuous cultural sensitivity training for the staff.

In August 1998 the National Indian Council on Aging convened their semi-annual Indian elders conference in Bismarck, North Dakota. About 2,500 elders from across the country participated and visited the State. NDIAC was a co-sponsor and member of the local planning committee. The highlight of the conference was the presentation of the US Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher. Dr. Satcher is a former colleague of the Director of the NDIAC. It was the first visit by a Surgeon General to North Dakota. Dr. Satcher spent time with the Indian elders, the Standing Rock Indian Health program, and several State officials including Legislators, medical professionals, and the State Health Officer. It was a wonderful event that brought attention to Indian elder issues and also brought to the attention of the United States Surgeon General the unique public health issues in North Dakota.

Another activity regarding elder issues was the co-hosting of training sessions at each Indian community on changes in Medicare. In concert with the Department of Human Services, Division on Aging and the North Dakota Insurance Department, NDIAC facilitated training seminars called *Medicare + Choice Training*. The training on changes in Medicare was geared for elder program staff and clients. Tribal assistance and participation was excellent and averaged about 40 people per session. The training was held in 1999 statewide, with the Indian sessions on the following dates: April 8 - Spirit Lake; April 15 - Three Affiliated Tribes; May 4 - Trenton Indian Service Area; May 11 - Standing Rock; May 19 - Turtle Mt.

The Commission will be assisting the US Census Bureau with the Census 2000 and has been participating in local and regional discussion with various officials. The Census Bureau has initiated specific strategies to get a more accurate count of American Indians and Alaska Natives. They have acknowledged that the 1990 count for Indian people is probably undercounted by as much as 12-15%. The Census Bureau is working with each tribal community and the NDIAC will provide assistance with the urban Indian surveys.

Year of the People Accord between the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and the State of North Dakota signed by Raphael DeCoteau Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and by Governor Edward T. Schafer on September 4th, 1998. Turtle Mountain became the second tribe in North Dakota to enter into such an Accord with the State of North Dakota (Standing Rock was the first in January 1996.) The Accord outlines the parameters of a 'government-to-government' relationship between North Dakota and the Tribal nation. The goal is to have the other three reservations sign accords also.

In addition to the accords, numerous agreements were entered into between the Tribes and various State agencies. The State Tax Department signed an agreement with the Standing Rock Nation on the collection of motor fuel tax on the reservation. A proportion of the revenue is distributed back to the Tribe. Standing had also signed a similar agreement in 1993 on tobacco tax collections. The other Tribal Councils are considering similar agreements. The Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services has agreements with all the Tribal communities (except Three Affiliated) for elder programs and services. The Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse has project agreements with Spirit Lake and Standing Rock. The State Health Department funds a maternal child health program for the Spirit Lake reservation and is working on linking Tribal Health and County Public Health Units.

The NDIAC has worked collaboratively with the Department of Tourism to update and reprint the *North Dakota Native Americans* brochure. First printed in about 1994, the brochure is an important tool for tourism activities promoting North Dakota. NDIAC developed the updating of the text and the layout. The Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribe is being added to the brochure and well as mention of the Tribal Community Colleges and the Trenton Indian Service Area. In the fall of 1999 the Tourism Department hired professional photographers to capture the culture and geography of the Indian community. New and updated photos are necessary to reflect the changes. This project will be completed in December 1999. In addition to the brochure, Tourism and NDIAC have been working together with the Tribes to develop plan and strategies for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial as well as tourism activities in general.

An important milestone during the biennium was the 50th anniversary of North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission. Created by the North Dakota Legislature in 1949, the role of NDIAC has remain constant – to create a better North Dakota through the improvement of State/Tribal relations and better understanding between the Indian and non-Indian people. NDIAC was one of the first such commissions established in the United States. Highlights from the fifty-year anniversary report that was published in the spring 1999 include:

- There have been eight Governors who have chaired the Commission. Fred G. Aandahl was Governor when the Commission was established in 1949.
- Tribal representation was added to the makeup of the Commission in 1959.
- In 1965 funds were allocated for Indian education scholarships.
- A Commission office was established in Bismarck in 1965.
- In 1967 the Executive Director becomes a full-time State position. There have been eight Executive Directors.
- The first Commission meeting to be held on a reservation (Standing Rock) was held in 1973.
- In 1981 the Legislature established the Native American Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education Fund for Indian youth on the reservations.
- The first ‘State of the Relationship’ address by an Indian leader was given to the State Legislature in 1985.

Because there was not specific authorization within the 1997-99 biennium budget for the 50th anniversary, NDIAC partnered with other events and agencies to celebrate the anniversary during 1999. By working together with the respective organization and individuals, increased Indian participation was generated. Specific collaborative events or activities that highlighted the anniversary were:

- ND Legislature Program and Lunch, March 1999
- UND Writer’s Conference, March 1999
- UND Indian Association Awareness Week, April 1999
- ASPIRE/TRIO Programs, University Systems April 1999
- Governor’s Youth Leadership Summit, April 1999
- Older Americans Month/Honoring Indian Elders, May 1999

Other activities conducted during the biennium include work on the gaming compact renewals; assistance in coordinating the annual United Tribes Intertribal Council summit; supporting the development of an Indian foster parent organization; planning the annual State housing conference to include an Indian component; assistance with DEM and FEMA regarding Tribal disaster management (tornados and floods); Tribal support for the Governor's leadership initiatives; and welfare reform and Indian clients.

On a national level, the Executive Director is an advisor to the Kaiser Family Foundation regarding Indian initiatives. Kaiser provides analysis and policy recommendations on health care issues specific to children and Medicaid and the newly established Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The NDIAC Director assisted in the development and implementation of a Fellowship program for Tribal Health staff. Other national programs include the Governor's Interstate Indian Council (GIIC) and as NDIAC resources permit, the annual conferences of the National Congress of American Indians, the Native American Tourism Association, and the National Indian Gaming Association.

The *Native American Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education Program* that is funded by the CSCC, was administered by NDIAC. This program provides substance abuse education funds for the four *reservations* with distribution on a prorated share based upon the Indian population living on the reservation as compared with the total Indian population living on all four reservations as determined by the most recent census data. The focus is on youth education and prevention. The prorated share for the four communities and based on 1990 Census is:

<u>Reservation (Prorated %)</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>	<u># Youth <19 years</u>
Spirit Lake Tribe (18%)	\$36,000	2,400
Standing Rock Tribe (18%)	\$36,000	(ND side only)1,500
Mandan,Arikara, HidatsaTribes (20%)	\$40,000	2,500
Turtle Mt.Band of Chippewa (44%)	<u>\$88,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$200,000	12,400

The Tribes each conduct or host various activities for the youth - such as speakers, sporting events, cultural activities, etc. - throughout the year and usually in conjunction with another planned event. Each Tribe is required to match, dollar-for-dollar, the amount granted by the State and they do so. The arrangement encourages and fosters partnerships and collaboration. The work and collaboration that has been fostered and nurtured by the State CSCC, the Regional and Tribal CSCCs, and the Native American Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education program is a model of North Dakota's resourcefulness. Quarterly reports are submitted to the NDIAC that outlines activities, expenditures and the Tribal match. Based on the quarterly reports, a brief summary of the program by reservation follows:

Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, New Town, North Dakota - Jason Two Crow, Coordinator

The Growth and Development program served approximately 15,000 students reservation wide during the biennium. Growth and Development also hosted numerous activities that promote drug and alcohol free activities that lead to healthier lifestyles. A reservation-wide summer youth recreation program included: Soccer with the help of the American Youth Soccer Organization, baseball, golf clinics, and mountain biking, a 4-H horse camp, writers camp, end-of-summer basketball tournaments, Young Nations Cultural camp that included activities such as

setting up teepees, Indian beadwork, fishing, story telling, native elders talking about the negative effects of drugs and alcohol. After prom and New Years Eve parties were sponsored in several communities on the reservation as well as back to school dances. A Native American youth motivational speaker from North Carolina gave presentation to all the schools on the reservation. The program director also chaperoned a group of students to the Governors Youth Leadership conference in Minot.

Spirit Lake Nation, Fort Totten, North Dakota – Larry Thiele, Coordinator

During biennium, the Spirit Lake Youth Alcohol and Drug Education (SLYADE) program served about 10,037 youth on the Spirit Lake Reservation. SLYADE participated in the following activities: Week of the young child, Youth Leadership Conference, pow-wows, healthy lifestyles walk/runs, leadership activities, Candle Lighting Ceremonies promoting alcohol and violence free communities, Ala-teen, Harmony/Prevention Fair, Safe Communities Coalition, Red Ribbon Week, Teen Dance, New Years Eve lock-in, and youth basketball tournaments. The program coordinator attended training in the areas of prevention and motivational presentations to youth and crisis response.

Standing Rock Nation, Fort Yates, North Dakota – Duane Silk, Coordinator

The Standing Rock Youth Alcohol Education program served 852 youth on the reservation (ND side) on a regular basis and in concert with the Tribe's substance abuse programs and the reservation school systems. During the 1997-99 biennium numerous alcohol substance abuse prevention activities were presented in the local schools. One project is the Wakpala Rainbow Project, which is an inhalant abuse prevention activity that includes information dissemination through signs, materials and presentations. The project gears the materials and presentations for youth and adult audiences including school officials. Several presentations to the local schools on the effects of tobacco use were also coordinated. This Youth Alcohol Education program is also an integral member of the Tribe's suicide prevention committees. The program coordinator has attended training and has assisted with the establishment of youth peer counselors to address the issue of suicides on the Standing Rock community. About 80 Standing Rock students have participated in training on the prevention of suicide.

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, North Dakota – Barb Poitra, Coordinator

The Tribal Youth Services served 3,425 youth on the Turtle Mountain reservation during the biennium. Tribal Youth Services sponsored and/or cost shared with other organization such as, Tribal Children's Services Coordinating Committee, Sacred Child, Turtle Mountain Community College, Alcohol Programs, Girls Scouts of America, Student Councils and School Administrations. Some of the activities sponsored were basketball tournaments, proms, after-prom parties, youth support groups, lock-ins, Red Ribbon Week, pow-wows, Mother Earth Activity Program, Homecoming, and a Cultural Camp. Presentation were given to local schools on alcohol and substance abuse prevention and intervention with special emphasize was given to 7th, 8th and 9th grades throughout the biennium.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF TRENDS IN DIRECTION

The federal government is continuing its process of decentralization – a push to the States and local government. The dynamics of Tribal-State relationships are changing because of this process shift. Gaming compacts and welfare reform are two examples of federal decentralization. Generally when the shift occurs, if the law or policy does not specify, Tribes are left out and have to struggle to be a part of a program.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of NDIAC and conducting the research for the history report has provided the Commission with insight as to ‘where we have been.’ It is a reflective process that provides the basis for beginning a new era and planning strategies to work toward improving relationships. While accomplishments have been made, there is much work to be done in breaking down stereotypes and understanding the positive aspects of cultural difference.

The concept of Indian self-determination is touted and promoted by the federal government. It is feared and appreciated at the Tribal level, and greatly misunderstood at the State and County levels. Indian people have been taught dependency and struggle in many ways to overcome dependency thinking and living...it will take a couple of generations to break the cycle. At the same time artificial barriers preclude Tribal governments and Indian people from fully realizing self-sufficiency.

3. SHORT AND LONG-TERM PLANS AND GOALS

A stronger role for the NDIAC is envisioned as the federal decentralization shift continues. Promoting better understanding of the complexities of being Indian and the inadequacies of federal funding for Indian programming, will become a more critical responsibility for NDIAC. Advocating for the right of Indian citizens to access State services will also continue to be an important role. Assisting the Tribes to develop infrastructure and programs aimed at self-sufficiency will continue to be a critical goal.

Short term goals include moving the office to more appropriate accommodations; complete the update of the Indian Affairs Directory; completion of the North Dakota’s First Citizen’s brochure; reclassification of the two staff positions to accurately reflect work being done; and improved technology and the developing of a WEB page.

Long-term plans include:

- (1) Discussions with Tribal leaders for a commitment for the support of the NDIAC. This could be a financial contribution or the establishment of a position by each tribe to NDIAC. The staff person would be a Tribal member who would know their respective community and the needs.
- (2) Encouraging State agencies (especially the larger and more critical agencies) to consider the establishment of a Tribal Liaison position to assist in their work and deliberations will be another goal for NDIAC. The Department of Human Services has led the way in this effort. A liaison provides insight and suggestions on how to generate Tribal support and participation.

- (3) Promoting having an Indian recipient of the North Dakota Rough Rider award. It seems somewhat ironic that in this day and age, a *Native* North Dakotan has not been an honored with a place in the Great Hall of the State Capitol.
- (4) Consideration to add the Chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Nation as a member of the Commission. Currently Sisseton is not an official member but an invitation is extended and the Tribe usually participates. Sisseton has a casino in Richland County and a gaming compact with North Dakota.

4. STATISTICAL INFORMATION RELATED TO NDIAC RESPONSIBILITIES

There are four federally recognized Tribes and one Indian community in North Dakota:

Spirit Lake Nation, Fort Totten, ND (Enrolled members 4,300)

Standing Rock Nation, Fort Yates, ND (Enrolled members 13,000)

Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, New Town, ND (Enrolled Members 8,700)

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Nation, Belcourt, ND (Enrolled members 28,000)

Trenton Indian Service Area, Trenton, ND (IHS User Population 1,800)

- ◆ In September 1998, the U. S. Census Bureau estimated the *North Dakota Indian population to be about 30,000* - about 5 percent of the State's population. Only Kidder County reports no Indian population in the Census update.
- ◆ The 1990 U.S. Census data estimated *41 percent of the Indian populations live off-reservation* in communities near-by or in urban centers.
- ◆ The average age for Northern Plains Indians is 18 years old as compared to North Dakota average age of 35 years.
- ◆ 43 percent of American Indian population is under the age of 20 years - about 13,000 Indian children in North Dakota.
- ◆ 78% of young Indian women, ages 14-24, are at high risk for contracting the HIV/AIDS virus.
- ◆ Indian youth ages 15-24 years old have a 382% higher suicide rate than U.S. All races rate – 67.5/100,000 compared to 17.7/100,000.
- ◆ Poverty rate for Indians in North Dakota is more that three times the rate for North Dakota All races population - 38 percent compared to 11 percent.
- ◆ In the Northern Plains the Median Household Income for Indians is \$12,310 as compared to the U.S. All races of \$30,056.
- ◆ Indians are nearly 7.5 times as likely to live in households without adequate sanitation facilities as the general North Dakota population.

- ◆ Approximately 57 percent of the T.A.N.F. caseload in North Dakota is American Indian families.
- ◆ Unemployment varies from reservation to reservation but averages 55 percent for North Dakota Indians as compared to the U.S. rate of 4.3 percent.

To varying extent, essentially every American Indian and Alaska Native community in America has experienced social and economic change, adjustment and adversity. Various federal policies have compounded the socio-economic disadvantages facing Indian communities. While these policies were supposedly well intended, federal agencies charged with ‘taking care of’ Indian peoples historically have been significantly under-funded. The Indian Health Services is funded at approximately 65% of need, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, at best, is funded at 50-60% of need.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission For the Period July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1999

<i>Use of Funds</i>	<i>Original Appropriation</i>	<i>Emergency Commission Transfers</i>	<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Salaries & Benefits (3 FTEs)	230,410	-19,000	-208,481	2,929
Operating Expense	33,888	+19,000	-54,496	(1,608)
Total	264,298		262,977	1,321
NAADAE Fund (Grant)	200,000		200,000	-0-

The overall NDIAC budget is modest and staff is resourceful in spending the funds. Three transfer requests (from salaries/benefits to operating) were made and approved by the Emergency Commission due to significant changes and a major milestone that during the biennium:

First, there was a turnover in the Executive Director position. A new administrator for the Commission came aboard in January 1998, and subsequently overall management styles changed for the office. In pursuit of a more efficient office, modest improvements were made for telecommunications – i.e. upgrading the phone system to have voice messaging services so that callers could be responded to in a timely manner. With the assistance of the ISD, NDIAC obtained a used computer and updated software programs so that the systems were compatible and within State guidelines. These minor upgrades improved the Commission’s operations. The goal is a modern office that is highly professional and responsive. A three-person office requires up-to-date technology for management efficiency.

Second, the three positions were left vacant or filled in a temporary capacity for various periods of time throughout the two-years, which resulted in ‘surplus’ funds under the Salary line item. The Director position was vacant for about two months, and the Administrative Assistant I position was vacant for about six months. The Administrative Assistant II position was filled

with a temporary for about twelve months and then the Administrative Assistant I was filled with a temporary for the last six months of the biennium.

A third aspect of change that affected the expenditures of the NDIAC, and somewhat in relation to the anniversary activities, was the research and development of various publications. It was critical to have current, demographic data on North Dakota Indian citizens and to compile the information in an accessible and usable format. There was also a need for a map that clearly displays the Indian communities and population within the State. The materials are now compiled and will be updated periodically. An Internet homepage is being designed and established for NDIAC that will have all the information.

The 1997-99 budget authorization for NDIAC did *not* include plans for commemorating the 50th anniversary of the NDIAC. Fifty years of existence and the very role of the Commission is an important milestone. The new Director developed ideas and collaborated with other State agencies to commemorate State/Tribal relations. Tribal organizations also provided resources to commemorate working together. For each event or activity, the NDIAC was listed as a co-host and presentations were made. NDIAC generated strong Tribal participation as a co-host. In addition a history report that highlights the 50 years of the NDIAC, was produced and distributed.

D. LIST OF REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- (1) *A Report on American Indian Children and Families in North Dakota*, December 1998
(for Governor's report on the status of children and families by CSCC)
- (2) *North Dakota First Citizen's*, Spring 1999
 - NDIAC Mission
 - NDIAC Members
 - NDIAC Staff
 - History Lesson (Chronology of treaties, laws, and policies)
 - Demographic Comparison – Indian/non-Indian
 - MAP
 - Tribal Profiles (including page on community colleges)
- (3) *Indian Programs Directory*, Winter 1998 (updating fall 1999)
- (4) *Honoring Indian Elders: Older Americans Month*, May 1999
- (5) *Voting Record of the 1999 ND Legislative Assembly on Indian Issues*, June 1999
- (6) *50th Anniversary History Report of the NDIAC*, Spring 1999